

Radical Middle Way Transcripts

Shaykh Ahmed Saad on: “Embracing Your Chosen Land”

[Opening Dua'a]

My Brothers and Sisters in Islam; One of the topics that a lot of our brothers and sisters will discuss these days is the issue of citizenship. Thinking that to be a citizen of a certain country it is as if telling you that you cannot be a Muslim. As if being a Muslim is the opposite of being a citizen of a country. Not knowing that actually loving one's nation; loving one's country and feeling this connection to the land is actually part and parcel of Islam.

Rasulullah (salallahu alaihi wasallam) tells us—and a lot of brothers will say, but this was a holy place—*Rasulullah* (SAW) tells us that when he was leaving Mecca he stood and he looked back at this blessed city and he said, “By Allah, you are the most beloved place to me and you are the most beloved place to Allah. And had it not been that Allah has given these people the permission—that these people have actually been given the permission by the power of Allah (SWT), these people have actually driven me out of you, I wouldn't have left you. This love—this strong and genuine love in the heart *Sayyidina Rasulullah* (SAW) goes to a city which was inhabited actually by non-Muslims, by polytheists, people who used to worship idols. And a lot of people would say, “Yes, but that was a holy place!” OK, fine, excellent. But when *Rasulullah* (SAW) moved to Medina and he stayed there for the rest of his life and he came back to Mecca on the eighth year after the Hijra, the reopening of Mecca, *Rasulullah* (SAW) was offered the opportunity to live in his home city again but he is teaching us an important lesson in citizenship; that he went back to Medina and settled there and he went with the Ansars and he said, “*ama tuhibbuna ani anna adhaba naau bil baqari washiyai watadhabuna bi Rasulullahi salallahu alaihi wasallam?*” Aren't you satisfied if people go with the sheep and with the camels and with the cows—with these worldly things—and you will get , you will gain a new citizen?”. That is *Rasulullah* (SAW).

So him, (SAW) has given us the best example of how can we move to another country and live in that country and enjoy and build in it? Him, (SAW) after building in Medina, and a lot of people would say, “but that was a Muslim society!” In fact, no, it was a diversity society. The Medinian society was a society of diverse communities, was a society when we had the Jews, of Banu Quraydha, Banu Nadhir, Baynu Banu Qaa; living next to munafiqeen, the hypocrites, living next to the polytheist Arabs, living next to al-Ansar, the original indigenous Medinians living next to al-muhajiroun, the Meccans. Even after the reopening of Mecca on the 8th year after the Hijra a lot of the people who were called al-muhajiroun, the sahaba—a lot of the immigrants who migrated to Medina, they went back to Medina, they did not settle in Mecca, they did not stay in their homeland.

We have many, actually, many Prophets and messengers who have left their homelands and settled somewhere and took the citizenship of that new country. And

even that new country was actually a non-Muslim country. We have the great Prophet Sayyidina Yusuf (Aleyhi Salaam [AS]) who travelled who left his place and he was sent to Egypt by the permission of Allah (SWT) and he took the citizenship of that country. Actually he acted as the minister of finance for Egypt under the leadership of a non-Muslim king, one of the pharaohs. The Aziz of his time. He was the aziz, he was the financial minister, the greatest leader after the king of the country. And he did not find the shame in this. A lot of the sahaba, a lot of the companions of the Prophet (SAW) have told us that they have left Medina and Mecca and went to live in completely different places. Even ladies did not lose this opportunity to teach us a lesson. Umm Hiram binti Milhan, one of the companions of the Prophet (SAW) died in Cyprus when she went and settled there. A lot of the sahaba, sayyidina Abu Darda (RA) is buried in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. Many others sahaba are buried in Egypt, others are buried in Iraq, in Syria, modern day Syria, which was a part of the Roman Empire.

That teaches us that there is no blame when people—actually it's encouraged to go and settle and give your whole heart, love to the new land you're in, to build in that land. Why? Because Islam teaches us that this is the land of Allah and we should go and live in it and build in it because that is the main purpose of our creation. '*Huwa anshaakum minal ardh*, it is He who has created you from land, *wastaamarakum fiy ha*, and He established you there so that you can man the earth and construct and make it a better place to live.' Had it not been for this, we wouldn't have been the *khulafa*, the vicegerents, the inheritors of the grace of Allah (SWT). May Allah (SWT) make us good followers of his teachings and may SWT enable us to achieve His pleasure in *dunya* and His *janna* in *akhera*. *wasalla allahu ala sayyidina Muhammadin waala aalihi wasahbihi wasalam*



About Shaykh Ahmed Saad

Shaykh Ahmed Mohamed Saad was born into a family of scholars and Huffaz from northern Egypt. His late father and grandfather graduated from Al-Azhar and were scholars in north Egypt. He finished the memorization of the whole Qur'an at the age of ten and studied traditional Islamic sciences at the hands of his father and then started the studies at Al-Azhar until he graduated from Al-Azhar University with BA in Islamic studies. Shaykh Saad finished his graduate studies at Al-Azhar as well. Alongside with this, Shaykh Saad studied at the hands of many scholars and received Ijazahs in the Qur'an in various Qira'at including `Asim, Nafi`, and Hamzah. He also Ijazahs in Islamic texts including Al-Jazariyyah, At-Tuhfah, As-Salsabeel and Shamail of Imam At-Tirmidhi. Imam Sa'ad also has Ijazahs in the Six books of Hadith and many other books of Tafsir in addition to an Ijazah in Muwatta Malik. He started giving Khutbahs at the age of 15 and has been working as a community-based Imam for the last 15 years. Imam Saad has toured the world as a lecturer and Imam; he visited Canada, Malaysia, Germany, Sweden, USA and settled in the UK after a few visits. Imam Saad is actively involved in inter-faith activities, teaching traditional Islamic sciences and enlightening the young people about the true teachings of Islam. Imam Saad also studied at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of Erfurt, Germany. He writes regularly at www.readingislam.com and appears at Hiwar TV, Press TV and has been a guest of BBC, ITV, Iqraa, Al-`Arabiyyah, Nile TV and many other TV and Radio channels. Imam Saad is the Imam of North London Central Mosque.

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